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NATIONAL TOPLINERS

TT is high time for an admiring By James Hay. Jr. and grateful country to step right up and become better ac-

Since Taft became President, the Captain hues. has been known to the public as a mass of background of any scene upon which Mr. "All this needs is a bottle of cologne to go Taft might appear, and shone resplendent at with it." every White House ball and afternoon tea. He has been set down as the carpet knight pear at foreign courts in ordinary American limp.

geousness.

But "Archie"—he denies that his full PRESIDENT TAFT'S card playing is asked Lethar.

But "Archibald Willingham de Craffon PRESIDENT TAFT'S card playing is asked Lethar. of glittering achievements and gabby gor- evening clothes.

name is Archibald Willingham de Graffenried Clavering Butt-has done things that whist; but, like most Americans, he knows have established his reputation for sterner the game of poker and considers it a great deeds than bending gracefully over a institution, in that it affords such ample op-woman's fan or handling a cup of after din-portunity for the display of judgment and ner coffee with all the grace of a magician.

In the first place, when he was in active service in 1900, he revolutionized the method of transporting animals by ship. So well did his innovation work that the British army has adopted it. He was put in charge of a shipload of horses and mules to be transported from Portland, Oregon, to the Philippine Islands, and, as he stepped aboard the cattle craft, he was handed a bulky mass of replied the German with enthusiasm. orders instructing him how to handle the animals. The general purport of these "All right," he said, "I'll play poker with papers was that he must put each horse and you on my hand if you'll give me that queen mule in a sling in its stall so that the rolling over there.' of the boat would not cause the beasts to lose their footing. This sling was made by a tail band, a belly band, and a shoulder a thousand dollars."

The German handed him the queen.

"Now," said the Governor, "I'll bet you a thousand dollars." plate, all so adjusted and tied to the sides of the stall that the horse or mule could neither fall down nor lie down. In fact, four aces. these slings held the beasts a little above the flooring of their stalls and let them sleep suspended in air. The theory on which this was done was that no animal could stand on you wanted with that queen." its feet for thirty-five days, the time consumed by the voyage, and live.

No sooner had the ship lost sight of land each mule and horse be given three feet of chain to its halter. It was rank insubordina- is correct. tion, for he was going against the bulky mass of orders from his superior officers; got too rough for a horse or mule to keep its footing it was time for mere man to contemplate the danger of going to the bottom of the sea. He also knew that a horse or a mule could stand on its feet and sleep on its feet almost indefinitely.

Luckily for him, the reform worked wonderfully well. He got the shipload of ani-mals to Manila without losing one. Before that more than half of every shipload of horses or mules carried to the Philippines from this country had died on the way. The result was that the Captain was highly commended, and his plan was adopted by the army of the United States and by the

British Government. Few people remember that Archie accompanied former President Roosevelt on his famous ride of one hundred and six miles from Washington to Warrenton, Virginia, and return. The trip was made in fourteen hours and forty minutes, and the last sixteen miles were covered in a blinding storm of sleet and snow. The start from Washington was made at three-fifty o'clock in the morning, and the only thing Archie and the Colonel ate during the whole day was soup.

The morning after the ride Butt went to the White House and took occasion to step around in a lively manner, so as to disguise the fact that the long ride had made him stiff. Roosevelt, after watching him a few minutes, called him into a corner and said:

"Archie, I see you're putting up the same bluff I am, moving about quickly so as to hide your bodily discomfort.'

That ride was made by Roosevelt to show that his executive order, requiring every officer in the army to ride a hundred miles in three days every year-thirty miles each day-was neither unreasonable nor unjust.

THERE has recently come to light in the Department of State a document which proves conclusively that solemn Elihu Root, Senator from the State of New York, has a sense of humor and a keen appreciation of the ridiculous.

When Root was Secretary of State, Charlemagne Tower, then Ambassador to Russia, was obsessed by the idea that American diplomats should have a costume to wear at foreign courts, and that this costume should match in brilliance and color the splendid trappings of foreign diplomats. Accordingly, he shipped over to Mr. Root a sample suit of the costume he had designed with

quainted with Captain Archibald Willing-ham Butt, U. S. A., military aide to the President and a "native of Geawjuh, suh, and proud of it." great care, and with it sent typewritten specifications describing the varicolored con-fection. It was a work of art, composed of lace and braid and picturesquely assorted

Mr. Root took one look at the sample smiles and a network of gold lace, which re- suit, read the specifications carefully, and sided in big automobiles, ornamented the then wrote on the back of the document,

Wherefore, American diplomats still ap-

confined to an occasional game of bridge brains.

To uphold his view, he tells this story: A Governor of Colorado was playing euchre with a German. The German picked up his hand and remarked:

"AchGott! I wish we were playing poker." "Well, what would you do if we were playing poker?" asked the Governor.
"I'd bet a hundred dollars on my hand,"

The German called the bet and showed down four kings. The governor showed

Well, that's all right," said the German, handing over the thousand with an air of gloom; "but what I want to know is what

THE REV. ZED H. COPP, probation officer of the District of Columbia, bethan the Captain issued a blanket order that lieves that Heaven has golden streets and all the slings be done away with and that palaces built of precious stones. He has preached a sermon to prove that this belief

REPRESENTATIVE BUTLER AMES but Archie spent his youth on a farm in of Massachusetts, who has invented an has an irreproachable taste in necktie Georgia, and he knew that when the water airship, owns the original yacht America, Burke's ties are famous in Washington.

which won the Queen's Cup in the races between American and British yachts before the Civil War. She was built in 1851 and owned by Ames' grandfather, Ben Butler. Nowadays, Ames keeps her lying in Chelsea Harbor and occasionally fits her up for a short cruise.

SECRETARY OF WAR DICKINSON, who is authority on lore and manners of the Southern negro, tells this story to show the colored man's quaint sense of humor:

John G. Lethar, a business man of Nashville, was walking along the street one day, when he met Silas Green, an old negro he had employed at various times. Silas seemed to be swathed in bandages from head to foot, and he was walking with a perceptible

"Lawd, Boss, ain't you done heerd de ews?" queried Silas in disappointment.
"No," replied Lethar. "Tell me about it

'replied Lethar. "Tell me about it,

"Well, Boss, you see, it was this way. Ah was paintin' a house roun' hyuh, an' Ah was high up on a scaffol'. De scaffol' broke, an' Ah fell. Lawd, Boss, it was awful, tur'ble! Ah broke this hyuh lef' wris', an' Ah skun my lef' laig up hyuh 'bove de knee, an' down hyuh jes' 'bove de ankle Ah broke my laig.

An' Ah spec' Ah would hab done kilt myse'f ef it hadn' been fo' a pile ob brick what broke my fall some.' CHIEF WILKIE of the United States

golf. The other is not talking about the measures he employs to protect the life of the President. He says that as soon as the newspapers print stories about how the President is guarded the publicity reminds "cranks" that here is an opportunity for them to make trouble.

Secret Service has two fads. One is

WHEN Colonel Roosevelt was touring the West recently, the city editor of a Washington paper received a postal card from one of his newspaper friends on the Roosevelt train saying:

"Am touring the West with Teethadore."

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES FRANCIS BURKE, secretary of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, began life as a bootblack and newsboy in the streets of Pittsburgh. Now he is one of the ablest members of the Pennsylvania delegation and of Massachusetts, who has invented an has an irreproachable taste in neckties.

THE INEVITABLE



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I'm feelin' awful funny, I'm feelin' awful queer,-A headache in my tummy, An' a toofache in my ear. I hadn't time to study My lessons yesterday 'Cause Pete an' Joe an' Buddy Came over here to playAn' now the school bell's ringin'! Oh, dear! I feel so ill! I telled my muvver 'bout it, An' she gived me a pill. She said, "Run on, Dear. You'll be late— An' don't forget to shut the gate.' Don't you fink muvver's kind o' cruel To send a poor sick boy to school? -Margaret G. Hays